

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AGR-05 STR-04 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 072124Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4402

INFO PAN CANAL

USSOUTHCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: BANANAS: GOP ANNOUNCES FORMAL TALKS WITH UB TO RESUME
JULY 15

REF: PANAMA 3510

1. AGRICULTURE MINISTER GONZALEZ ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK-END THAT GOP AND UNITED BRANDS REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MEET JULY 15 (AS INDICATED REFTTEL) AT SANTIAGO, VERAGUAS PROVINCE, FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON TERMS OF THE TRANSFER OF LOCAL COMPANY ASSETS TO PANAMA. LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS OF ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATE THAT UB VALUATION OF THESE ASSETS IS \$100 MILLION, WHILE GOP CLAIMS THEY ARE WORTH LESS THAN HALF THAT AMOUNT; THAT DECEMBER 1977 REMAINS DEADLINE FOR UB WITHDRAWAL FROM BANANA PRODUCTION HERE; AND THAT COMPANY IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO BUY PANAMA'S BANANAS.

2. FACT THAT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY MINISTER GONZALEZ AND TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN SANTIAGO, WHERE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY IS NOW LOCATED, APPEARS TO CONFIRM
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DIMINISHED ROLE OF COMMERCE MINISTER MANFREDO

IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALIZATION, COMPENSATION, NEGOTIATIONS, BANANAS, SUBSIDIARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA04004
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-1096
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750781/aaaacuaw.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PANAMA 3510
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANANAS: GOP ANNOUNCES FORMAL TALKS WITH UB TO RESUME JULY 15
TAGS: ETRD, PN, US, UNITED BRANDS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006